

The Intelligencer.

It is said that there is a movement on foot to take the collection of the school money of the city district out of the hands of the City Collector and put it into the hands of the Sheriff. We understand that the Legislature will probably be imported to pass a bill to this effect. We rise to inquire what necessity exists for such a change. A few years ago this same money was collected by the Sheriff, and it was thought best to take it out of his hands and put it into the hands of the City Collector. Why then should it not remain there?

No one would suppose that hard times were upon the land after noticing the disposition of the two houses of the Legislature to vote away the public money in the shape of mileage to those who have no claim whatever to such bonuses. The Senate yesterday, following the example of the House in the matter of mileage to its pages and committee clerks, voted to pay its officers mileage. The Code prescribes the pay of said officers and grants them no other perquisites. As Dr. Hall well remarked, if that pay was adequate in 1868, it is much more so now. But then what's the difference? The dear people can easily foot the bill.

WHEELING is rapidly becoming metropolitan in her politics. The caucus system has at length been fairly introduced into the business interests of the city. Heretofore such machinery has been unknown among us. Candidates for office at the hands of Council have been selected in open competition with each other on the floors of the two branches. Now, however, the "Star Chamber" process has been substituted for the old method. All that is necessary is to get the nomination of a caucus, formally called for the purpose, and after that the door is locked to competitors.

The first caucus of this kind in our midst occurred on Monday night last. Its introduction was celebrated by the formal opening of a keg of beer on the occasion, and thus, amidst festal pomps of the fluid, the political machine was set to work grinding out non-inventions. We judge, however, from the turn that things took at Council last night, that there are several people who are not yet ready to surrender their free agency and individuality, along with the best interests of the city, into the keeping of this caucus. The action of Council in the matter of the selection of Standing Committees shows that there are men in the two branches, Democrats and Republicans, who refuse to recognize the "machine." This is a rebuke to start with and a very timely one.

The true interests of the city of Wheeling are not to be promoted by any such "machine" arrangements. There should be no politics in matters where every taxpayer is personally interested in securing the very best material we have in our midst to serve us as city officers. Neither political party has ever heretofore recognized any necessity for such a contrivance as was set on foot last Monday night. It is a new deal in politics in Wheeling, and bodes no good in the future to the public interests.

After-to-morrow the price of gas in Wheeling will be \$1.62 net per thousand, instead of \$2.07 as heretofore—a reduction of 45 cents. In Cincinnati they are holding out for \$1.75 instead of \$2.15. The gas company offer to come down to \$1.90 net, but this is not satisfactory to the public. At Chicago the price is \$2. The Cincinnati papers contend that \$2 in Chicago is cheaper than \$1.75 in Cincinnati, inasmuch as the gas coal has to be transported from Pennsylvania to Chicago by rail.

The reduction to \$1.62 in Wheeling comes a little late, but better late than never. Our people should not have been taxed higher than \$1.62 for a year past. When permission was granted to issue bonds for the extension of gas mains it was not in contemplation by Council that such improvements should be made at the expense of the old consumers, who, for so many years, had been excessively taxed for their use of gas.

The argument that applies to a reduction in the price of gas applies also to a reduction in our water taxes. A large revenue is now collected for general city purposes off the consumers of water. Instead of encouraging the people to introduce bathing-rooms and other modern conveniences into their houses, and to use hose for the purpose of flushing out the gutters and laying the dust, the price is put so high as to make all such necessities so many expensive luxuries. If the surplus revenue derived from the sale of water to the people was put into a sinking fund for the erection of new water works a few years hence, the tax would not appear so onerous as it now seems. But such is not the case. The money goes into the general fund, and is spent indiscriminately along with the credit of the city in the way of overchecks on the banks.

A Card.
Seeing an article in Friday's Register, headed "More Tilden Money Bailed," stating that I made a bet on the result of the election with Mr. George Edwards, of your city, and that the stakes were placed for safe keeping in the hands of one James Robinson, of the Magnolia saloon, on Water street, I wish to state that the above is false in every particular, as I never saw Mr. George Edwards in my life, nor do I recollect of ever making a bet with any man in Wheeling. The facts of the case are as follows:
A gentleman of Bellaire made a bet with Mr. Edwards, and the money was placed in the hands of Mr. Robinson, and I presume he would have had the stakes yet if Mr. Edwards had not been so good as the gentleman in Bellaire repeatedly, requesting him to withdraw, as he had become a little fearful about the result; for about that time their party leader, Hon. John Morrissey (nice man to lead a nice party) had declared all bets off. A gentleman of this city consulted me yesterday on the Boston & Albany Railroad, and advised him to withdraw, for my own experience had led me to think that there

BY TELEGRAPH.

ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT.

TO THE DAILY INTELLIGENCER.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.

The House bill appropriating \$500,000 to be paid to James B. Eads, for the construction of the Mississippi jetties, &c., was passed.

The Speaker laid before the House a bill abolishing the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police of the District of Columbia.

The question was put, shall the bill pass? The yeas were 158, and the nays 78.

Mr. Payne offered a resolution that the House elect members of the commission on the Presidential count. Adopted.

Mr. Hoar nominated Messrs. Payne, Abbott, Garfield and Hoar, and to have time taken for the first should be voted for together.

Mr. Buckner objected and demanded a separate vote.

The Speaker ruled that the matter was in the power of the House. He submitted the question and the House decided, yeas 210, and nays 155.

The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and each member responded, repeating the five names in their order. Some of the Republicans changed the order, commencing with the Republicans candidates. The yeas were 210, and the nays 155.

Mr. Hoar moved to amend the bill, so as to provide that the commission should be composed of five members, three Republicans and two Democrats.

The Speaker announced the appointment of Messrs. Payne, Abbott, Garfield and Hoar.

On motion of Mr. Payne, the Speaker was authorized to appoint two tellers who are to count the Presidential vote on the part of the House.

The House then took up the bill reported by the Committee on the Judiciary in regard to damages for infringement of patents. It provides that damages can only be recovered for infringements which shall have occurred during the term of one year preceding the notice of infringement. Passed.

The Speaker laid before the House a message from the President vetoing the bill to amend the act to provide for the collection of duties on imports from the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Pretoria, South Africa, for their contributions to the United States on the first centennial of its freedom. His reason for vetoing the resolutions is that the act of the Italian Chamber of Deputies in an encyclical, which will probably be published at the Consistory in March.

Washington Police Board.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—The special committee of the Board of Police Commissioners of the District of Columbia continued their investigation to-day. Secretary George M. Robeson was sworn, and testified that he had read the report of the investigation of Murtough as it was published in the newspapers. The chairman then read Murtough's testimony in regard to his interview with witness in relation to Whitthorne. Witness did not remember interview; saw Murtough often during Whitthorne's investigation, but had no conversation with him about Whitthorne. Murtough did not know about the Whitthorne affair at the witness' request or with his knowledge; talked about Whitthorne's business with various persons as to his personal habits, but had nothing to do with the investigation of the kind, was among the witness' habits were bad, and so may have smiled when Murtough asked me about him; thought Whitthorne was opening himself to exposure, and thinking some subordinate would take advantage of the opportunity, communicated to a member of Congress, who showed up his influence in warning Whitthorne to be careful, if there was any necessity. He did this, not for any feeling toward Whitthorne, but out of respect for himself. Witness had no knowledge that he was being shadowed by policemen when he was in conversation with Murtough about it at the time, as he scarcely knew him then. He heard after Dana's arrest that he was being watched. It was rumored in the Navy Department that Whitthorne would be exposed or that he was being watched for the purpose of the kind, was among the possibilities; that he had had such a conversation with Murtough as given in his testimony about not exposing Whitthorne while he was in office, but the witness could recollect nothing of it.

Swindling Manufacturers.
BOSTON, Jan. 30.—The Journal says: The Treasury agents here have worked up a case which will bring before the United States Courts one of the largest manufacturing companies of the State, the National Tube Works. It is charged that they have swindled the government out of \$100,000 by drawing out exported goods, on a plea that they were manufactured of imported iron, on which duty has been paid, and whereas they were made wholly of American iron, suits are to be begun at once for the amount of drawback and penalties, which will increase the claim of the government to \$500,000.

Weather Indications.
OFFICE OF THE WEATHER SERVICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., January 31.—A. M. PROBABILITY.
In Tennessee and Ohio Valley, falling, followed by rising barometer, warmer south winds, veering to colder, westerly and northwesterly, partly cloudy weather, and possibly occasional rain.

In Lakes, falling barometer, increasing southeast to southwest winds and veering to the west, warmer, threatening and rainy weather, possibly partly turning into snow, succeeded in the Upper Lakes during the day or evening by rising barometer with colder and clearing weather.

Thanks to the President.
HARTFORD, Conn., Jan. 30.—The Connecticut House to-day, on motion of the Democratic members, adopted unanimously a resolution tendering thanks of the general assembly to the President, for the approval of the electoral bill, and cordially endorsing his message.

Hayes and Wheeler Elected.
ABEY, Jan. 30.—The Senate to-day adopted a resolution by 12 to 2 declaring that Hayes and Wheeler had been legally elected President and Vice President, and should therefore be inaugurated.

Jumped From a Train.
BOSTON, Jan. 30.—Albert H. Prince and Joseph H. Smith, detected in stealing yesterday on the Boston & Albany Railroad, jumped from the train. Palmer was killed and Prince disabled.

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